(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the Ministry has collected details regarding permissible works carried out in various States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons for which the same is not collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) Area Officers and National Level Monitors have been appointed by the Minsitry of Rural Development for monitoring the progress of implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in all States. These Officers visit the States from time to time. In case of any serious specific complaint received from any State, National Level Monitor are also deputed to look into the complaints.

(c) and (d) Selection of works to be taken up under the Act is done by the competent authorities in the State Governments out of the list of permissible works provided under Schedule I of the Act and recommended by Gram Sabhas and Panchayati Raj Institutions. Central Government does not maintain any list of works carried out in various States. However, as per monthly progress report received, 140789 works for water conservation, 16764 for drought proofing 3416 for flood control, 58765 for Rural Connectivity and 37754 other works have been taken up. States have been adivsed to take up only permissible works.

Discrepancy in wages to workers employed under NREGA

†2864. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a problem is being faced in implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, because of different rates of wages prevailing in different States;

(b) whether it is also a fact that laborers in States are being paid wages lesser than the prescribed rates;

(c) if so, the steps Government have taken to do away the said discrepancy; and

(d) whether Government propose to bring any amendment in the said Act to remove these discrepancies?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) In terms of Section 6(1) of the NREG Act, Central Government may, by Notification, specify the wage rates for the purpose of this Act. Different rates of wages may be specified for different areas. However, the wage rates specified by the Central Government cannot be less than Rs. 60 per day. The Act further provides that till such time a wage rate is fixed by the Central Government in respect of any area in a State, the minimum wage fixed by the State Government under section 3 of the Minimum Wates Act, 1948 for agricultural laborers shall be considered as the wage rate applicable to that area. Central Government has so far not fixed any wage rate in respect of any of the States. At present the Wage Rates fixed by the respective State Government is therefore applicable in the States which is different in each State. The wage rate is fixed by State Government based on the productivity norms. These productivity norms are also fixed by the States themselves. Payment of wages is based on the rates on the rates and norms fixed by the States.

(c) Guidelines issued by this Ministry aurhorize the State Governments to get scientific time and motion studies done to determine the nroms of task so as to ensure that a person normally working for seven hours gets wages equal to wage rate fixed.

(d) No. Sir.

Employment Guarantee Council under NREGA

†2865. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States which have set up State level Employment Guarantee Councils as per the guidelines of the NREGA;

(b) the mechanism for proper execution of the schemes under NREGA in some scheduled areas where the Panchayat system does not exist; and

(c) the Government's steps, if any, to develop new functional mechanism in such areas to ensure proper implementation of the programme?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.